

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 280965
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:BAFLECK:EBS
APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE
EA:ROAKLEY (DRAFT)
L/EA:SORLINS (DRAFT)
PM/ISO:CDR.BURGESS (DRAFT)
OSD/ISA:MABRAMOWITZ (DRAFT)
NSC:MARMACOST (DRAFT)
S/S:SRPVALERGA
S/S:SRPVALERGA

-----097270 232312Z /72

O R 232145Z NOV 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
CONCPAC
CINCPACREPPHIL
CG 13TH AF CLARK

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EXDIS, MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS: PROPOSED
STATEMENT FOLLOWING NOVEMBER 25 MEETING

REFS: A) MANILA 18408, B) TOKYO 17879

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1. FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS WE DO NOT RPT NOT SEE VALUE
IN PROPOSED PRESS STATEMENT FOLLOWING NOVEMBER 25 MEETING.
OUR BASIC APPROACH, AGREED TO BY THE FILIPINOS LAST YEAR
AND WHICH WE CONSIDER REMAINS VALID, HAS BEEN THAT NEITHER
SIDE WILL DISCUSS DETAILS OF NEGOTIATIONS IN THE PRESS.
THEREFORE, UNLESS THERE IS A PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT
NEW DEVELOPMENT TO REPORT, ON WHICH A JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

HAS BEEN CLEARED IN ADVANCE BY THE GOP AND BY WASHINGTON, WE WOULD PREFER A POLICY OF NO PRESS STATEMENTS AT THE CLOSE OF EACH NEGOTIATING SESSION. IF MARCOS FEELS THE NEED FOR SUCH A STATEMENT, OBVIOUSLY WE CANNOT PREVENT IT, NOR SHOULD WE TRY. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THE PROBLEMS CREATED BY SUCH A STATEMENT.

2. OUR PARTICULAR OBJECTIONS TO THE STATEMENT PROPOSED IN REF. A ARE AS FOLLOWS: A) IT CONTAINS NOTHING NEW; B) WE WISH TO AVOID ANY PUBLICITY ON OUR TALKS WITH THE GOP REGARDING THEIR DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS; C) IT IS

PREMATURE TO MENTION REQUESTS TO CONGRESS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES, PARTICULARLY WHEN FORM OF ASSISTANCE IS NOT YET DECIDED; D) WE HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE CONCEPT OF LINKING THE PHILIPPINE BASE COMMANDER WITH DELINEATION OF FACILITIES; E) WE HAVE PROBLEMS REGARDING PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF MDB; AND F) AS INDICATED REF. B, JAPAN IS TAKING STRONG INTEREST IN PHIL. BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND WE DO NOT WISH TO GIVE MISLEADING OR PREMATURE IMPRESSIONS THAT MIGHT STIMULATE GOJ TO SUGGEST CHANGES IN OUR SOFA THERE.

3. THE PRESS STATEMENT AFTER THE NOVEMBER 16 MEETING HAS CAUSED CONSIDERABLE MISUNDERSTANDING HERE, INCLUDING CONGRESS, AND IN JAPAN (REF. B). WE WILL BE BRIEFING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONGRESS REGULARLY AND NEED TO TAKE THIS PART OF PROCESS INTO ACCOUNT. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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